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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.30 and Add.1)*]

57/44. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community, including decision 56/443 of 21 December 2001,

Commending States members of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves towards regional integration,

Recognizing the continued efforts to strengthen democracy, good governance, sound economic management, human rights and the rule of law and other positive developments in the region, including the consolidation of peace, through the creation of institutions to further regional integration, such as the Parliamentary Forum, the Electoral Forum and the Lawyers Association of the Community,

Welcoming the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[1] by the African Union and the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development[2] and the ongoing efforts of African countries for the further implementation of the New Partnership,

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, adopted on 22 March 2002,[3] and the need for adequate resources to enable the States members of the Community successfully to implement their programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and achieving sustainable development,

Welcoming the efforts of the Community to make southern Africa a landmine-free zone,

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[1] A/57/304, annex.

[2] Resolution 57/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Expressing concern about the very difficult humanitarian situation in countries of the region,

Noting with grave concern that adverse weather conditions have contributed to the drought currently affecting the region, in particular in rural areas,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution the United Nations system and the international community have continued to make towards complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation, reconciliation and development in the region,

Welcoming the establishment of the Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa of the Security Council and of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict within the framework of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming also the fact that the signing of the Ceasefire Agreement in Angola on 4 April 2002, resulted in the cessation of all hostilities and created unprecedented conditions for the resolution of all pending questions of the Lusaka Protocol[4] and its full completion,

Expressing its grave concern at the dire humanitarian situation in Angola, which is hampering national efforts towards economic rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as regional development projects, and bearing in mind that the main responsibility for improving the humanitarian situation and creating conditions for long-term development and poverty reduction in Angola lies with the Government of Angola with, where appropriate, the participation of the international community,

Expressing satisfaction over the initiatives to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, launched by the Community in collaboration with the African Union, the United Nations and other entities, and recognizing that the Inter-Congolese Dialogue is an essential element of the peace process for the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts by the facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, Sir Ketumile Masire, the former president of the Republic of Botswana, aimed at ensuring a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Welcoming with satisfaction the signing on 30 July 2002 of the Pretoria Agreement between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Rwanda,[5] under the auspices of President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, in his capacity as chairman of the African Union, and the Secretary-General, and the signing on 6 September 2002 of the Luanda Agreement between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Uganda under the mediation of President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola, as steps towards a durable peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Noting with concern the high prevalence in the region of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and other communicable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, which have far-reaching social and economic consequences,

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[4] S/1994/1441, annex.

[5] S/2002/914, annex.

Recognizing the important role that women play in the development of the region,

Recognizing also the important role of civil society and the private sector in the development of the region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the United Nations funds and programmes as well as the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Southern African Development Community, welcomes in particular the financial and other contributions of the international community in response to the joint appeal launched by the Community and the United Nations in New York on 18 July 2002 for assistance to avert the humanitarian crisis in the region, and calls upon member countries, in particular the donor community, to continue their support to the United Nations humanitarian efforts in the region;

3. *Appeals* to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue providing, where appropriate, financial, technical and material assistance to the Community to support its efforts to implement fully its regional indicative strategic development plan, and to support the Community in the full implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[1]

4. *Calls upon* the States Members of the United Nations and the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of so doing;

5. *Appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and support the Community in its efforts against landmines, and calls upon the States members of the Community to continue to strengthen their efforts in this regard;

6. *Also appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to support the Community's efforts, with the appropriate resources, in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summit meetings, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

7. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the establishment by the Community of the Women in Business Network, aimed at empowering women by, inter alia, facilitating and enhancing their access to credit and training in business and technical skills;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to support the measures taken by the Community in addressing HIV/AIDS, including commitments and proposals for key future actions on the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS;

9. *Recalls* the primary responsibility of the States members of the Community to consolidate democracy, good governance, sound economic policy and

[6] A/57/94 and Add.1.

[7] See resolution 55/2.

the rule of law and to enhance the implementation of national development programmes, and recognizes efforts made in this regard;

10. *Strongly appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to cooperate with the Community and its member States in the implementation of appropriate policies for the promotion of the culture of democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the strengthening of democratic institutions that will consolidate the broad participation of the people of the Community on these issues in accordance with the purposes and principles of the New Partnership;[1]

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Angolan authorities, especially by providing humanitarian, financial and material assistance, in alleviating the suffering of the Angolan people, in particular children, women and the elderly, and calls upon the Angolan authorities to continue to allocate the necessary financial resources to implement economic and social policies and programmes that will improve the lives of the people of Angola;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the United Nations, to continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to assist in the rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of that country;

13. *Urges* all parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement,[8] as well as the Pretoria Agreement[5] and the Luanda Agreement, to work towards their speedy and full implementation and to cooperate in this regard with the United Nations and the African Union;

14. *Emphasizes* the crucial need and importance of strengthening the role of the United Nations in the tasks of voluntary disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in contributing to lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist those countries receiving refugees in coping with the resulting economic, social, humanitarian and environmental challenges;

16. *Appeals* to the United Nations and the international community to assist further in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and sanitation as well as to respond generously with respect to the drought situation in southern Africa, by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies;

17. *Expresses its support* to the economic reforms being implemented by States members of the Community, in pursuance of their shared vision of creating a regional economic community through deeper economic integration;

18. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to support the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the States members of the Community, with the active participation of the private sector, while recognizing the responsibilities and the ongoing efforts of the countries concerned to create the necessary environment, including the appropriate legal and economic framework for such activities;

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[8] S/1999/815, annex.

19. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Community in capacity-building and in addressing the new challenges, opportunities and the consequences presented to the economies of the region arising from the process of globalization and liberalization;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

56th plenary meeting
21 November 2002